

Section I

Introduction

Background

This is the Final Environmental Impact Report (FEIR) for the proposed California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection (CDF) comprehensive update to the Jackson Demonstration State Forest (JDSF) Management Plan. Adoption of the JDSF Management Plan is a project subject to the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) as defined by Statute (PRC §21000 et al.) and the CEQA Guidelines (Title 14: California Code of Regulations [CCR] §15000 et al.). CDF, as the CEQA Lead Agency, released on May 17, 2002 a Draft Program Environmental Impact Report (DEIR) for consideration prior to adoption of a new Management Plan for the JDSF. The DEIR was circulated through the State Clearinghouse (SHC No.2000032002) for state agency comments and was made available to the public. CDF accepted public comment related to the DEIR between May 17, 2002 and July 19, 2002. CDF extended the comment period from the original July 1, 2002 deadline due to confusion stemming from distribution at a posting site. All comments received by the CDF that pertain to the DEIR are addressed in this FEIR.

As the Lead Agency, CDF will consider the contents of the DEIR and FEIR before making a decision about the proposed project. CDF will prepare a Notice of Determination regarding the project and the CEQA review pursuant to CEQA Guidelines.

The public involvement for this project consisted of written comment submitted during the comment period and oral testimony recorded at a public hearing conducted in Willits, California on Wednesday June 12, 2002. Two hearing sessions were conducted; one starting at 3:00 PM and one starting at 6:00 PM.

Organization of FEIR

All comment letters from agencies and the public were assigned a unique alphanumeric code as they were received by CDF. The first initial of the first and last name of each respondent was combined with the chronological number by date of receipt. With the exception of those comments received in very high volume, a list of each comment letter is included below. Due to space limitations, not every form letter is listed. Some appendices to long letters have also been left out of the FEIR. These are on file at the CDF Administrative Office, located at 1416-9th Street, 15th Floor, Sacramento, CA 95814. Responses to each type of form letter may be found in Section V.

Letters were sorted into groups of state and local agencies, form letters (similar or identical letters), and unique comment letters. A unique response to each agency or unique comment letter is provided. For each type of form letter received, one representative letter was chosen to represent the class of letters. A list of the alphanumeric codes of letters in each class is included with the response to each type of form letter.

Responses to agency and public comments received during the comment period are contained in Sections II, III, IV, V, and VI of this FEIR. Section II General Responses presents a summary of comments that were either very common or raised the most significant issues regarding the DEIR. Responses to comments follow each summarized comment. These General Responses are referred to throughout the remainder of the FEIR in responding to agency comments, form letter comments, and individual comments in Sections III, IV, V, and VI).

Section III Response to Agency Comments includes copies of all letters received from affected state and local government agencies. Letters were reviewed and comments are individually numbered in the margin of each letter. Letters of response to each numbered agency comment follow each agency comment letter.

Section IV includes a copy of each unique public letter and each non-state or non-local agency letter. Comments are identified and numbered in the margin of each letter. Following the letter copy, each numbered comment is addressed.

Section V includes a representative letter of those letters grouped into classes due to similarity to other letters. Comments within representative letters were numbered in the margin. Responses to the comments follow the letter. A list of the alphanumeric code of similar letters in the class precedes the actual response to the comments. The letters grouped may contain some slight differences from the others in the class, but do not contain significantly different comments and therefore do not require unique responses. One form letter, initially emailed, then delivered in hardcopy, received response, but, due to volume, respondents were not included in the alphanumeric listing.

Section VI includes a brief summary of each comment received at the public hearing and response to the comments. Respondents are identified in the summary. Some responses in Section VI refer to General Responses and other responses to comments in previous sections.

Section VII summarizes mitigations measures from the DEIR and mitigation measures added in response to public comments.

Section VIII presents a summary of corrections, additions, and deletions. This FEIR incorporates by reference the DEIR in its entirety, with the exception of the above corrections, additions, and deletions.